



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(Currently amended) A telecommunication device comprising:

a receiving module receiving a telephone call for a user from a calling device;

and

a processor identifying a dialed telephone number associated with the call, said processor using the dialed telephone number to retrieve from a storage medium a first telephone number, a second telephone number and at least one user preference, each of which being associated with the user, said processor using the at least one retrieved user preference to dial the first telephone number to form a first communication path between said processor and the first telephone number and dial the second telephone number to form a second different communication path between said processor and the second telephone number substantially simultaneously,

wherein said processor holds the call for a predetermined time until it is determined that [[a]] the user has answered a device associated with one of the first [[and]] or second telephone numbers, said processor authenticates the answered device before forming a completed physical circuit connection between the calling device and the answered device by connecting the calling device to the formed communication path connected to the answered device.

2. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein a first of the retrieved telephone numbers corresponds to the retrieved first telephone number and a second of the retrieved telephone numbers corresponds to the retrieved second telephone number.

3. (Previously presented) The device of claim 2, wherein said processor routes the call to a third retrieved destination number associated with a voice mailbox telephone number after the predetermined time as defined by the at least one retrieved user preference.

4. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein said predetermined time corresponds to a number of telephone rings defined by the at least one retrieved user preference.

5-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said processor prompts a caller of the telephone call with a menu of call destination options and said processor places the call to at least one retrieved telephone number in accordance with an option selected by the caller.

10. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said processor receives the call from a private branch exchange, and wherein the at least one retrieved telephone number is associated with the private branch exchange.

11. (Previously presented) The device of claim 10, wherein the call is routed to a retrieved telephone number associated with a cellular telephone.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein the cellular telephone can operate independently from the telecommunication device.

13. (Previously presented) The device of claim 10, wherein the call is routed to a retrieved telephone number associated with a pager.

14. (Previously presented) The device of claim 10, wherein the call is routed to a retrieved telephone number associated with a personal digital assistant.

15. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said processor receives the call from a public switched telephone network, and wherein the at least one retrieved telephone number is associated with a private branch exchange connected to the telecommunication device.

16. (Previously presented) The device of claim 15, wherein said processor routes the call to a plurality of additional retrieved telephone numbers, wherein at least one additional retrieved telephone number is associated with a cellular telephone.

17. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said processor is connected to a local area network and the at least one user preference is input via the local area network.

18. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said processor is connected to the Internet and the at least one user preference is input via the Internet.

19-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A method of providing telecommunications to a user of an communication network, the method comprising the steps of:

connecting the communication network to a connect unit;

providing a first communication device associated with the user at an extension of the communication network associated with the user;

providing a second communication device associated with [[to]] the user;

receiving a communication made to the extension at the connect unit;

holding the received communication in the connect unit;

identifying the extension from the routed communication;

using the identified extension to retrieve a first communication device number associated with the first communication device, a second communication device number associated with the second communication device, and at least one user preference associated with the user; and

forming a first communication path between the first communication device and the connect unit by placing a first call to the first communication device;

forming a second communication path between the second communication device and the connect unit by placing a second call to the second communication device, said acts of placing the first and second calls occurring substantially simultaneously;

determining if the first communication device answered the first call or if the second communication device answered the second call; and

if the first or second call ~~where~~ is answered and authenticated, routing the received communication to the authenticated answering device by connecting the received communication to the formed communication path associated with the answering device via a completed physical circuit connection.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) A method of providing telecommunications to a user of a communication network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a communication;

holding the communication;

identifying a communication device number associated with the communication;

retrieving, based on the identified communication device number, a first communication device number, a second communication device number and at least one user preference, each of which being associated with the user;

routing, using the retrieved at least one user preference, the communication to at least two destination communication numbers substantially simultaneously, wherein the at least two destination communication numbers are selected from the group including the retrieved first and second communication numbers and a voice mailbox number, and wherein the act of routing the communication comprises forming a first communication path to the first communication device number and a second communication path to the second communication device number;

determining if one of the destination communication numbers has been answered; and

if it has been determined that one of the destination communication numbers has been answered, requesting information from [[a]] the user before routing the held communication through the formed communication path associated with the answered destination communication number via a completed physical circuit connection.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein a first of at least two destination communication numbers corresponds to the retrieved first communication number and a second of the at least two destination communication numbers corresponds to the retrieved second communication number.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the communication is routed to a third of the at least two destination communication numbers corresponding to the voice mailbox number after a predetermined time, as defined by the at least one retrieved user preference.

33-35. (Canceled)

36. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the communication is routed to a destination communication number associated with a cellular telephone.

37. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the communication is routed to a destination communication number associated with a pager.

38. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the communication is routed to a destination communication number associated with a personal digital assistant.

39-51. (Canceled)